

### ITEMS OF INTEREST.

**Salvarsan Made in U. S.**—Because of the shortage due to the war, salvarsan is made and offered for sale under its chemical name to physicians and hospitals urgently in need of it by the dermatologic laboratories of the Philadelphia Polyclinic. Dr. Jay F. Schamberg, the director of the Department of Dermatological Research, states that the product made by the dermatologic laboratories has been employed on hundreds of cases with excellent therapeutic results and with no reports of accident or untoward complications (Jour. A. M. A. Dec. 18, 1915, p. 2179).

**Incompatibility of Quinine with Aspirin.**—Experiments have shown that weak acids, such as acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin) citric, malic, acetic or tartaric acid under the influence of heat may convert quinine into its poisonous isomer quinotoxin and cinchona into cinchotoxin. The danger of the formation of quinotoxin in the body cannot be great. Ready-made mixtures of quinine or cinchona preparations with weak organic acids should be avoided (Jour. A. M. A., Dec. 18, 1915, p. 2187).

**Proprietary Digitalis Preparations.**—The Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry reports that it is becoming increasingly apparent that the tincture of digitalis produces the full therapeutic effects of digitalis, and that when it is properly made it is as staple as any liquid preparation of digitalis now available; and that the tincture has the systemic side actions of digitalis, including the emetic, in no greater degree than the various proprietary preparations of this drug. Strophanthin and crystallized ouabin are now available in sterile solutions in ampules and afford a convenient means of promptly securing the cardiac action by intramuscular or intravenous injection (Jour. A. M. A. Dec. 4, 1915, p. 2024).

**Orthoform—New.**—Treasury Decision 2194 contemplates registration of orthoform-new under the Harrison Narcotic Law (Jour. A. M. A., Dec. 25, 1915, p. 2257).

**Poslam.**—The A. M. A. Chemical Laboratory in 1909 found that essentially Poslam consisted of zinc oxide 12.01 parts, sulphur 6.67 parts, corn starch 22.00 parts, tar oil 15.18 parts, menthol and salicylic acid, small quantities, fatty base to make 100 parts. For skin affections which may be benefited by ointments the official ointments are as effective as the proprietary products and have the added advantage of being of known and more uniform composition (Jour. A. M. A. Dec. 25, 1915, p. 2256).

**Ozomulsion.**—This "patent medicine" long sold as a consumption "cure," has been declared misbranded under the Food and Drugs Act, the therapeutic claims being both false and fraudulent. The preparation was found to be an emulsion of cod liver oil, with glycerine and phosphorus compounds of calcium and sodium (Jour. A. M. A. Dec. 18, 1915, p. 2184).

**Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets.**—The A. M. A. Chemical Laboratory reports that the pills responded to tests for emodin and aloin. Essentially, Pierce's Pleasant Purgative Pellets appear to be an ordinary laxative pill. That the active principle of aloes was found in the pills is of interest in view of the fact that the leaflet advertising Pierce's Pleasant Pellets warns the public against the use of purgatives composed of aloes (Jour. A. M. A., Dec. 4, 1915, p. 2025).

### THE OATH OF HIPPOCRATES.

I swear by Apollo, the physician, and Aesculapius, and Health, and All-heal, and all the gods and goddesses, that, according to my ability and judgment, I will keep this oath and stipulation: to reckon him who taught me this art equally dear to me as my parents, to share my substance

with him and relieve his necessities if required; to regard his offspring as on the same footing with my own brothers, and to teach them this art if they should wish to learn it, without fee or stipulation, and that by precept, lecture and every other mode of instruction, I will impart a knowledge of the art to my own sons and to those of my teachers, and to disciples bound by a stipulation and oath, according to the law of medicine, but to none others.

I will follow that method of treatment which, according to my ability and judgment, I consider for the benefit of my patients, and abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous. I will give no deadly medicine to anyone if asked, nor suggest any such counsel; furthermore, I will not give to a woman an instrument to produce abortion.

With purity and with holiness I will pass my life and practice my art. I will not cut a person who is suffering with a stone, but will leave this to be done by practitioners of this work. Into whatever houses I enter I will go into them for the benefit of the sick and will abstain from every voluntary act of mischief and corruption; and further from the seduction of females or males, bond or free.

Whatever, in connection with my professional practice, or not in connection with it, I may see or hear in the lives of men which ought not to be spoken abroad, I will not divulge, as reckoning that all such should be kept secret.

While I continue to keep this oath unviolated, may it be granted to me to enjoy life and the practice of the art, respected by all men at all times; but should I trespass and violate this oath, may the reverse be my lot.—Journal of the American Medical Association.

### STATE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING.

At the regular meeting of the California State Board of Health held in Sacramento, January 8, 1916, a physician of Contra Costa County appeared before the Board to explain his failure to report a case of typhoid fever in an employee of a dairy, among the customers of which eight cases of typhoid fever developed. In his defense the physician stated that he had had a Widal reaction done at the State Board of Health's Hygienic Laboratory in Berkeley and that he considered that sending a specimen of blood to the Laboratory for examination was equivalent to notification. He was warned that formal notification to the health officer is necessary, in order that the provisions of the law may be complied with, regardless of laboratory assistance received.

Resolutions were passed directing local registrars not to file any birth certificates after the expiration of a reasonable time after birth, a period of one year from date of birth being fixed as such reasonable time within which birth certificates may be filed by local registrars. The state registrar was directed not to accept any birth certificates that have been filed after a period of one year from date of birth.

The matter of compelling treatment of dangerous syphilitic patients was taken up by the Board, and inquirers were informed that under the law the State Board of Health can not compel treatment of any kind, but it can isolate persons dangerous to the public health.

In addition to these matters, permits for the disposal of sewage were granted; certificates as registered nurses were granted to three applicants; and the following hospitals having training schools were placed upon the accredited list: Northern California Hospital, Eureka; St. Francis Hospital, Santa Barbara; Alta Bates Sanatorium, Berkeley; City and County Hospital, San Francisco; Mater Misericordia Hospital, Sacramento; Alameda Sanitarium, San Jose; Roosevelt Hospital, Berkeley.